

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 /103 W

-----056366 181201Z /23

P 181130Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 411

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UR, US, CU, CF, AO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SOVIET CHARGE KONDRATIEV, APRIL 13

1. CHARGE RETURNED RECENTLY ARRIVED SOVIET CHARGE KONDRATIEV'S SOURTESY CALL, APRIL 13. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION THREE SALIENT POINTS EMERGED:

2. THERE ARE NO SOVIET "TROOPS" IN THE CONGO, SAID KONDRATIEV ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OFFICERS, AS THERE HAVE BEEN OVER THE YEARS, WHO ARE ENGAGED IN TRAINING CONGOLESE MILITARY. ACCORDING TO KONDRATIEV, "SOVIET SOLDIERS" REPORTED BY FRG AMBASSADOR DERIX (BRAZZAVILLE 287) ARE, IN FACT, THE ADDITIONAL "DETACHMENT" (KONDRATIEV'S WORD) OF CUBANS, IN RUSSIAN-TYPE UNIFORMS, WHO WERE MENTIONED BY PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY AND FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS (BRAZZAVILLE 340). KONDRATIEV ADDED THAT THIS ADDITIONAL COBAN "DETACHMENT" AT POINTE-NOIRE WAS REQUESTED BY BOTH THE CONGOLESE AND ANGOLAN GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT CONGO-CABINDA BORDER AS WELL AS TO BE ACTIVE IN CABINDA ITSELF. KONDRATIEV ALSO SAID THAT, YES, CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE INDEED WERE "CUBAN TANKS" WHICH RECENTLY ARRIVED TO ASSIST CUBAN PRESENCE IN CABINDA.

3. CHARGE SAID INFORMALLY THAT WE HOPED OUR DIFFICULTY IN HAVING U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES RESIDENT IN KINSHASA PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO GOCB WAS NOT IN ANY WAY OCCASIONED BY HIS DEFENSE ATTACHE COLONEL SAENKO. KONDRATIEV REPLIED THAT

HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY, FOR HE
COULD SEE NO REASON WHY SOVIETS WOULD "FEAR" ACCREDITATION
OF DATT HERE. KONDRATIEV JOKED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN
HAVING TROUBLE IN SEEING VICE-PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO,
NOT HAVING BEEN RECEIVED BY HIM DESPITE THREE SUCCESSIVE
REQUESTS. HE ADDED THAT THIS MAY REFLECT SAME CONGOLESE
LACK OF AFFECTION TOWARD SOVIETS WHICH HE INTERPRETED TO HAVE
BEEN DISPLAYED NIGHT OF APRIL 12 AT A SOVIET SPACE EXHIBIT,
WHE FAIRLY LOW RANKING CONGOLESE SPEAKER OPENING SHOW ARRIVED
ONE HOUR LATE. FYI: IN COMPARISON TO SPACE EXHIBIT, WHICH
FEATURED WELL WORN FILM ON LIFE OF YURI GAGARIN, PRIVATE
COMMERCIAL VISIT BY AMERICAN ROCK GROUP, "THE LOVE MACHINE"
PACKED THEM IN, WITH PERFORMANCES WELL ATTENDED BY, AMONG
OTHERS, WIFE OF VICE-PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF MILITARY
COMMITTEE AND CABINET. END FYI.

4. LASTLY, KONDRATIEV SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR AFANASSENKO
IS IN FINAL STAGES OF MEDICAL CLEARANCE BUT "MAY OR MAY NOT"
BE RETURNING TO CONGO SOON.
KATZEN

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